

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.				
1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)	2. REPORT DATE August 10, 1995	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Final Technical 2/15/93 - 12/31/93		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Eleventh International Conference on Laser Spectroscopy		5. FUNDING NUMBERS N00014-93-1-0298		
6. AUTHOR(S) T.F. Gallagher				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) University of Virginia Department of Physics Charlottesville, VA 22901		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Office of Naval Research 800 N. Quincy Street Arlington, VA 22217-5660		10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER		
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES				
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Unlimited		12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A Approved for public release Distribution Unlimited </div>		
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) <p>The Eleventh International Conference on Laser Spectroscopy, held June 10-15, 1993 encompassed the following areas of laser spectroscopy, high resolution spectroscopy of atoms and molecules squeezed states of light and their applications, time domain spectroscopy, atomic wavepackets, far infrared spectroscopy based on picosecond pulses, gain without inversion, and the interaction of atoms with intense laser pulses.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 2</p>				
14. SUBJECT TERMS laser, coherent spectroscopy, time resolved spectroscopy			15. NUMBER OF PAGES 2	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT unclassified	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	

Final Technical Report

Eleventh International Conference on Laser Spectroscopy

June 11-15, 1993

Supported by:

Office of Naval Research

Grant: N00014-93-1-0298

Prepared for:

**Dr. Herschel S. Pilloff
Office of Naval
800 N. Quincy Street
Arlington, VA 22217-5660**

by

**Thomas F. Gallagher
Department of Physics
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22901**

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The Eleventh International Conference on Laser Spectroscopy was held June 10-15 in Hot Springs, Virginia. The current topics in laser spectroscopy were featured in the program. The program included laser cooling and trapping, both of neutral atoms and ions, with photo association spectroscopy and interference in the fluorescence from two ions in a trap being some of the more noteworthy features. Recent progress in the related area of atom interferometry was also reviewed. The program included the most recent advances in high resolution spectroscopy including measurements of the Rydberg constant and high resolution spectroscopy of molecules, both stable forms and free radicals.

Time resolved spectroscopy received more attention than is usually the case for this conference. The use of the coherence in the broadband noise of a split laser pulse as well as a new Ramsey interference method for doing wavepacket experiments were discussed. A related technique, using a picosecond laser pulse to rapidly turn on the current in a GaAs wafer to generate broadband short FIR pulses, was also discussed. The uses of these pulses for molecular spectroscopy and as high intensity half cycle pulse ionize to excited atoms were described.

A timely topic covered at the conference was the interaction of atoms with intense laser fields. The transition between traditional multiphoton ionization and field ionization was described. An interpretation of transient resonant enhancements of multiphoton ionization in terms of the evolution of dressed atomic states was presented, clarifying an issue which had been a subject of some debate. Finally, the first observation of stabilization of atoms in an intense laser field was reported. The use of laser spectroscopy in more practical contexts was also covered. Applications included spectroscopic diagnostics of combustion and surface dynamics, environmental sensing, imaging using x rays from laser generated plasmas, and using squeezed light for communications.

Finally, the experimental observation of amplification without inversion was described. It is another example of a common theme which runs through many of the topics covered in the conference, the importance of coherence. In the earliest days of laser spectroscopy, the laser was used primarily as a bright, narrowband light source, but coherence in the sample was not generally exploited. It is clear

that coherence in the sample is now beginning to play a role comparable to the role it plays in nuclear magnetic resonance.

Since this conference is typically held in the United States or Canada every four years, it is useful to record how the conference was run. It was held in Hot Springs, Virginia, where there are few distractions other than the natural surroundings. Consequently, the oral sessions ran from 8:30 to 12:30 each morning and from 5:00 to 6:30 in the afternoon, leaving some part of the afternoons free for a combination of informal discussion and outdoor activities. Poster sessions ran from 8:00 to 11:00 in the evening, and were very successful. Every evening they were attended until midnight. The unavoidable conclusion is that for conferences held in isolated places having poster sessions in the evening works very well!